

## MY VOCATION STORY

### Identity/Family Background

I, Seminarian Gabriel Ketere was born on the 19th of June 1978 at Pomio Health Centre in the Archdiocese of Rabaul. I was baptized on the 9th of July 1978 and received my first Holy Communion on the 26th of November 1990. I received my Confirmation in 1995. My parents are Lucas Ketere and Christina Altewana. My mother is a subsistent farmer and still alive but my father Lucas Ketere died in the year 1992. I come from a very disciplined and Christian family at Galue Village in Pomio Parish under the Archdiocese of Rabaul. I am the firstborn in the family of five children (1 female and 4 males). I believe that it was because of the strict, disciplined personality of my father, that as a family we have a great fear of the Lord.

### School and After School Life

I had 12 years of formal education. It started in 1987 at Galue Primary School and ended in 1998 at Keravat National High School. After the end of my grade 12, I did not make it to any college. Since then, I spent the rest of the years assisting my mother taking care of my younger brothers and my sister. It was here that I slowly began to encounter God. My vocation story contains a lot about my work experience until I came to discover my vocation in 2008. But it took me until in 2015 when I joined the seminary in Rapolo Sacred Heart, with an intention to serve God as a diocesan Priest.

### My Intention/Aspiration

Up to the time I am writing this vocation story, despite my being advanced a bit in age, still I maintain the very intention to become a Diocesan Priest. My mother, brothers, my sister and relatives are happy with this decision, praying that I may one day become what I am longing for.

### Prayer Life, Work and Ministry

I love participating in both spiritual exercises like Lectio Divina, Bible Sharing, spiritual classes, community and personal prayers and other liturgical functions. I also love participating in both work and related ministries assigned to me by the community.

### Fraternal and community Life

I love being a seminarian; I love being available, participating, relating or communicating freely and being friendly to both staffs and fellow students in the seminary community and outside.

### Social Life

I love socializing with others and I always try to make myself available for others, especially those who need help.

### Study Life

I have great desire for study and prayer.

### Conclusion

Priesthood is a life of prayer and sacrifice. I am happy and peaceful because I come to understand that my vocation is a mystery. It is God who chose me, and it is not I who choose Him. I am thankful to God for calling me at this age. I learn to see my past as a pass-over, live the present with passion, and look to the future with hope.